AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 19 and 47, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An anchor mechanism to reduce a tendency for a structure to migrate and rotate after implantation of the structure into a patient, where the structure is one or more of a radioactive source, a thermal ablation implant, a spacer, a strand and a radiopaque marker, the anchor mechanism comprising:

a sleeve to fit around the structure;

said sleeve having a bore that extends an entire longitudinal length of said sleeve, and through which the structure fits, such that a portion of the structure extends out from each longitudinal end of said sleeve; and

one or more protrusions extending from an outer surface of said sleeve along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of said sleeve, said one or more protrusions having a substantially squared profile formed by at least a pair of sidewalls spaced along the longitudinal length to form at least one of a space within said one protrusion and a space between said protrusions to receive surrounding patient tissue upon implantation of the structure into a patient, to thereby reduce a tendency for the structure to migrate and rotate after implantation;

wherein a thickness of said sleeve varies such that the thickness is greater where there is one of said one or more protrusions than where there is not a protrusion.

2. (Original) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein an inner diameter of said sleeve is slightly smaller than an outer diameter of the structure so that an interference fit is provided therebetween.

3. (Original) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is adapted to be heat shrunk to the structure.

4. (Original) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is adapted to be adhered to the structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said one or more protrusions comprises a plurality of protrusions.

6. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said one or more protrusions comprises one or more rib.

7. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said sleeve and said one or more protrusions are bioabsorbable.

8. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein said sleeve and said one or more protrusions are biocompatible.

9. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic member for use in brachytherapy and other radiation treatment, comprising:

a structure that is one or more of a radioactive source, a thermal ablation implant, a spacer, a strand and a radiopaque marker;

a sleeve to fit around said structure;

said sleeve having a bore that extends an entire longitudinal length of said sleeve, and through which the structure fits, such that a portion of the structure extends out from each longitudinal end of said sleeve; and

one or more protrusions extending from an outer surface of said sleeve along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of said sleeve, said one or more protrusions having a substantially squared profile formed by at least a pair of sidewalls spaced along the longitudinal length to form at least one of a space within said one protrusion and a space between said protrusions to receive surrounding patient tissue upon implantation of the structure into a patient, to thereby reduce a tendency for the structure to migrate and rotate after implantation;

wherein a thickness of said sleeve varies such that the thickness is greater where there is one of said one or more protrusions than where there is not a protrusion.

10. (Original) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said structure comprises a radioactive source.

11. (Original) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said structure comprises a strand that includes a plurality of radioactive sources.

12. (Original) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein an inner diameter of said sleeve is slightly smaller than an outer diameter of said structure so that an interference fit is provided therebetween.

13. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said sleeve is heat shrunk to said structure.

14. (Original) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said sleeve is adhered to said structure.

15. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said one or more protrusions comprises a plurality of protrusions.

16. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said one or more protrusions comprises one or more rib.

17. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said sleeve and said one or more protrusions are bioabsorbable.

18. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein said sleeve and said one or more protrusions are biocompatible.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for use in brachytherapy and other radiation treatment, comprising:

providing a structure that is one or more of a radioactive source, a thermal ablation implant, a spacer, a strand and a radiopaque marker;

fitting a sleeve around the structure such that a portion of the structure extends out from each longitudinal end of the sleeve, wherein the sleeve includes one or more protrusions extending from an outer surface of said sleeve along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of said sleeve, said one or more protrusions having a substantially squared profile formed by at least a pair of sidewalls spaced along the longitudinal length to form at least one of a space within said one protrusion and a space between said protrusions;

loading the structure, with the sleeve around the structure, into a hollow needle; and

using the hollow needle to implant the structure, with the sleeve around the structure, into patient tissue;

wherein the patient tissue is caught in the at least one space upon implantation of the structure, with the sleeve around the structure, to thereby reduce a tendency for the structure to migrate and rotate at implantation; and

wherein a thickness of said sleeve varies such that the thickness is greater where there is one of said one or more protrusions than where there is not a protrusion.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the structure is a radioactive source.

21.-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise a helically arranged rib and the at least one space is formed between winds of the helical rib.

42. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise a pair of ribs arranged along the sleeve as opposing helixes, and the anchor mechanism includes the at least one space formed between winds of the pair of ribs.

43. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise two or more ribs each rib extending along a circumference of the sleeve, and the at least one space is formed between each pair of the two or more ribs.

44. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise a helically arranged rib and the at least one space is formed between winds of the helical rib.

45. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise a pair of ribs arranged along the sleeve as opposing helixes, and the anchor mechanism includes the at least one space formed between winds of the pair of ribs.

46. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic member of claim 9, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise two or more ribs each rib extending along a circumference of the sleeve, and the at least one space is formed between each pair of the two or more ribs.

47. (Currently Amended) An anchor mechanism to reduce a tendency for a structure to migrate and rotate after implantation of the structure into a patient, where the structure is at least one of a radioactive source, a thermal ablation implant, a spacer, a strand and a radiopaque marker, the anchor mechanism comprising:

a sleeve adapted to fit around the structure such that ends of the structure are not covered;

said sleeve having a bore that extends an entire longitudinal length of said sleeve;

one or more protrusions extending from an outer surface of said sleeve, said one or more protrusions having a substantially squared profile formed by at least a pair of sidewalls spaced along the longitudinal length;

one or more spaces formed by the one or more protrusions that extend along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of said sleeve; and

said sleeve adapted to be received upon an implantation site such that patient tissue is caught in the one or more spaces at implantation to thereby reduce a tendency for the structure to migrate and rotate at implantation;

wherein a thickness of said sleeve varies such that the thickness is greater where there is one of said one or more protrusions than where there is not a protrusion.

48. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 47, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise comprises a helically arranged rib and the one or more spaces is formed between winds of the helical rib.

49. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 47, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise comprises a pair of ribs arranged along the sleeve as opposing helixes, and the anchor mechanism includes the one or more spaces formed between winds of the pair of ribs.

50. (Previously Presented) The anchor mechanism of claim 47, wherein the one or more protrusions comprise comprises two or more ribs each rib extending along a circumference of the sleeve, and at least one space of the one or more spaces is formed between each pair of the two or more ribs.